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*Title Page.*  
*The Barnstormer,*  
*A photoplay in six reels.*  
*Directed by Charles E. Ray.*  
*Author of photoplay Charles E. Ray Jr. U.S.A.*

**There'll be a Franchise everywhere**

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Arthur S. Kane  
presents  
CHARLES RAY  
in  
"THE BARNSTORMER"  
By Richard Andréa  
Directed by Charles Ray

Produced by Charles Ray Productions Inc.  
A First National (T.M.) Attraction

#### CAST

Joel, "Utility" .....	Charles Ray
Leading Man .....	Wilfred Lucas
Leading Lady .....	Florence Oberle
Manager .....	Lionel Belmore
Stage Carpenter .....	Philips Dunham
Theatre Owner .....	Gus Leonard
Druggist .....	Lincoln Plumer
Emily .....	Charlotte Pierce
Joel's father .....	George Nichols
His mother .....	Blanche Rose
The Nut .....	Bert Offord

#### SYNOPSIS

Joel Matthews was the son of a prosperous farmer and quite a nice, normal boy, except for an unfortunate conviction that he was just born to be an actor. His attempts at making up for roles of all sorts and kinds had entirely failed to convince his family of his genius, but at last when the Gwendolyn St. Clair players came to town to play at Spliven's Opera House, his great chance came. He got a contract with a large red seal from the manager-husband of the star, and left his weeping mother to enter on a stage career, his unsympathetic father thinking that the easiest way to cure him.

Playing one night stands with a very small stock company proved by no means a bed of roses, but Joel managed to make himself useful, even if he did not exhibit any great histrionic ability. He played the piano, rustled trunks, did odd jobs, gave out hand-bills and sometimes took small parts which were without conversational requirements. Then came a whole week to be spent in one town and he was promised a line or two to speak, which put him in the seventh heaven.

His model at all times was the leading man of the troupe. Walking about the new town with his hero, Joel shone with reflected glory in the eyes of the druggist's pretty little giggling daughter Emily and managed to scrape a most delightful acquaintance with her. In fact after worming two complimentary tickets for her out of the leading man, he obtained an invitation to supper at her home. That was a wonderful time! It was the first home meal Joel had had for a number of weeks, and this, combined with Emily and the indulgence of her kindly old father gave Joel such a good time he came near being late for the theatre in spite of his real part.

A full house so excited the stock company that almost everything went wrong. The leading lady was temperamental and Joel especially absent-minded, for the presence of Emily filled his thoughts. But everything seemed convulsingly funny to the audience, who laughed and applauded with the greatest enthusiasm until, at a thrilling point in the drama, a masked and armed figure sprang down the middle aisle with the terrifying command, "HANDS UP!" Covering the audience with his gun, the bandit forced Joel to take a hat and collect all the valuables he could in the shortest space of time. In a daze, the boy obeyed, and then crept out of the hall into a corner, ashamed of the part he had been forced to play in a weak sale theft. Suddenly the masked figure darted past him and disappeared through the stage door. Joel's wits returned. Swiftly and silently he followed, to find that the thief was his idol and hero, the leading man! Getting hold of the famous gun, he covered the actor with it and made him return with the plunder to the stage, where the manager was trying to quiet the audience.

Great was the applause for Joel from both audience and players, and under cover of all the excitement and confusion Joel drew Emily off for a quiet talk that seemed to promise him greater success in another direction than he had found on the stage.

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